Disposal of Aircrafts of Indian Airlines and Air-India

126. SHRI S. MUTHUMANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to dispose of some of the Aircrafts/ Boeing of the Indian Airlines/Air-India;

(b) if so, any advertisement has been given in the newspapers;

(c) if so, any proposals have been received from the prospective buyers; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). The Government have approved sale of two B737-200 aircraft of Indian Airlines. On the basis of global tenders, Indian Airlines is selling the aircraft to M/s Blue Dart Express Ltd.

With the approval of its Board of Directors, Air India has invited bids through advertisements for selling two B747-200 aircraft. No bids have yet been received.

Inflation

127. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had a proposal to make special efforts to bring down inflation;

(b) if so, the efforts made in that direction during the current financial year;

(c) whether review is being made from time to time to know the progress of the efforts; and

(d) if so, the month-wise details thereof as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) to (c). The Government monitors continuously the price situation in the country. Cabinet committee on prices is the highest forum at which price situation is reviewed. There is a Special Action Committee of Secretaries on Prices chaired by the Cabinet Secretary which monitors, reviews and recommends action to check prices and improve supply and availability of essential commodities. An Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee for Monitoring and forecasting Prices and supplies of essential commodities chaired by the Secretary Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution also reviews and recommends measures to contain prices of essential commodities.

(d) The meetings of the above high level committees are held generally once in a month or even twice a month depending upon the urgency of the situation.

विद्युत बोर्डों के वार्षिक घाटे की राशि में वृद्धि

128. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:**
श्री राम जेठमलानी:

क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत वर्षों में देश में विभिन्न राज्यों के विद्युत बोर्डों में होने वाले वार्षिक घाटे की राशि निरन्तर बढ़ती जा रही है; यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1991-92 में हुए घाटे की राशि कितनी थी;

(ख) वर्ष 1995-96 में कितना घाटा होने का अनुमान है;

(ग) क्या पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान सरकार को, इस बढ़ते हुए घाटे को रोकने के लिए विशेषज्ञों की ओर से कतिपय सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल): (क) जी, हां। वर्ष 1991-92 के दौरान 17 राज्य बिजली बोर्डों की हानियां, ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण आर्थिक सहायता को हिसाब में न लेते हुए लगभग 3136 करोड़ रुपये थी।

(ख) योजना आयोग ने अनुमान लगाया है कि वर्ष 1995-96 के दौरान 17 राज्य बिजली बोर्डों की वाणिज्यिक हानियां ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण आर्थिक सहायता को हिसाब में न लेते हुए लगभग 6511 करोड़ रुपये होगी।

(ग) और (घ) राज्य बिजली बोर्डों की हानियों को कम करने के उपायों के सम्बन्ध में विभिन्न वर्गों से सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं। इनमें, अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ कृषि टैरिफ समेत टैरिफ का यौक्तिकरण, ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण आर्थिक सहायता का समय से भुगतान करना, पारेषण एवं वितरण हानियों में कमी करना, संयंत्र भार अनुपात में सुधार करना, प्रबन्ध सम्बन्धी पद्धतियों को सरल और कारगर बनाना, राज्य विद्युत क्षेत्र के पुनर्गठन आदि के सम्बन्ध में सिफारिशें की गई हैं।

Refund orders pending with I.T. Department

129. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a number of cases regarding issue of refund orders pending with the Income Tax Department for assessment years 1987-88 to 1994-95 year-wise and circle-wise;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such delay; and

(c) by when the assessment of those assesses who have overpaid income tax amount is likely to be completed and refunds issued to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) There are more than three thousand assessing officers deployed on assessment work through out the country. The information sought for relates to 8 assessment years. The labour put in will not be commensurate to the results sought to be achieved. However, the Central Board of Direct Taxes have issued instructions from time to time to complete assessments expeditiously and issue refunds.

Violation of FERA

130. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any FERA violations by the Satellite channels in the country during the year 1994 and so far in 1995;

(b) if so, what are the details of such violations detected so far in respect of each Satellite channel;

(c) whether any of these Satellite channels have submitted any explanations about their funding to the Directorate of Enforcement; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against the persons/officials involved in FERA violations and corrupt practices and if so; what are their names and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) One case of suspected violation of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (F.E.R.A.) by a satellite channel based in Madras has been detected by the Enforcement Directorate in the year 1995. The amount involved in the case is Rs. 1.41 cores. The managing Director of the company was arrested and later on released on bail.

Funds to save DD from resource crunch

131. SHRI ANANTRAM JAISWAL: SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry approached the Ministry of Finance for extra funds to save DD from resource crunch; and